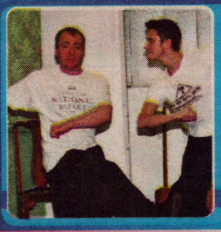
No 588 December 17, 2000

THE FUNDAY TIMES

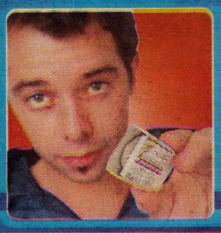
They're back!
The Pokémon stars return in another blockbuster movie adventure

Page 3



Dance stars
Find out how these ballet dancers are preparing a cool Christmas treat

Page 5



Abracadabra
Discover how to impress your friends with some great magic tricks

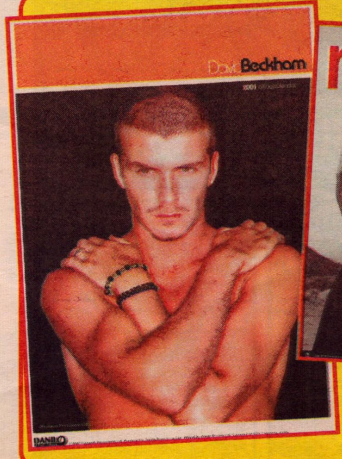
Page 6

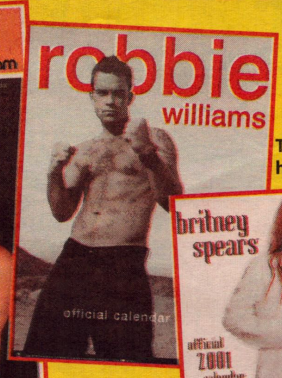
THE FLINTSTONES in IT'S A WONDERFUL PREHISTORIC LIFE

The story so far = Without his Christmas bonus, Fred just can't enjoy the festive period. But his luck has just got even worse!

More inside

Continues next week!





MAKE A DATE

There are a few dates that you should never forget. Your birthday, the start date of every school holiday, and of course Sunday – because that means Funday, every single week!

We've discovered a cool way to keep up to date for the whole of next year, while also giving your bedroom walls a facelift, with these fabulous Official Danilo 2001 Calendars priced from £4.99 to £9.99.

There are loads to choose from, so whether you're a fan of David Beckham, Kylie, Robbie, Geri, Pokemon, Britney, Steps, Westlife or even Harry Potter, you can be sure there's a calendar for you!

Here are some Funday dates to look forward to:

December 24 – a special Christmas edition, packed with cool quizzes

December 31 – We've got an exciting feature about how Big Ben works!

January 7 – read about the stars of Disney Channel's new Buzz Lightyear of Star Command TV series

Have a great week!

NEWS

PICTURES: REUTERS, DREW GARDNER

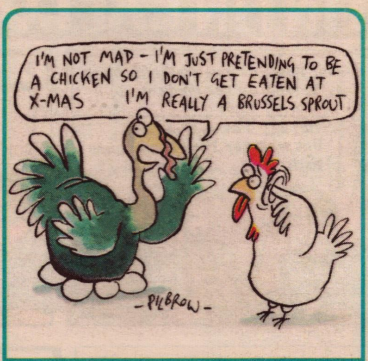
Top of the towers

Construction began on the tallest tower in the world this month, but don't hold your breath – it's going to take builders at least five years to complete! This artist's impression of the tower shows it standing head and shoulders above its neighbours in the city of Pusan, South Korea. Workers broke ground for the building earlier this month and the structure should be finished in November 2005. It will measure an incredible 464m high and will contain 107 storeys. In comparison, the tallest building in Britain, London's Canary Wharf, is just 244m high and has 50 floors.

Highway to home

Dormice are taking the high road to pastures new after conservationists built them a special rope bridge 15m above ground. The rope stretches for 6m over a forest road, so that the tiny rodents can cross without getting run over. There are dormice nests on either side of the road and experts are hoping the bridge will encourage them to start building one big colony.

Colin Green from Severn Trent Water, which set up the bridge, said: "This rope bridge should help them travel across open space to find a mate, and will hopefully lead to increased numbers."



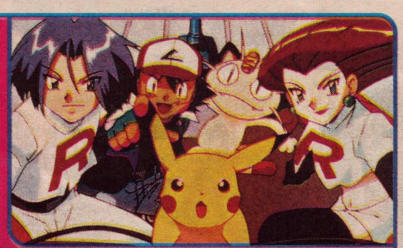
Plucky bird

Paxo the turkey has escaped the Christmas dinner table by adopting a nest of abandoned chicken's eggs! The barmy bird sits lovingly on the brood all day, only getting up to stretch his legs and turn the eggs. His owners, who run a horse rescue centre in Bristol, have said he's too good to eat. "There's no way we'll be serving Paxo up for our Christmas dinner now," chuckled Jerry Watkins. "We'll let him live out the rest of his days with us. He never lets the eggs out of his sight and gets very upset if we try to move him away from them."

Christmas Dome

If you haven't been to the Millennium Dome yet, it's time to get your skates on. The festive season is in full swing at the Greenwich attraction, with an ice-skating rink and snow-clad fir trees in the new Snowscape zone. There's even a snowfall every 15 minutes to keep you on your toes! Father Christmas is welcoming visitors at the Dome and a 9m-tall Christmas tree in the main square has been covered in teddy bears and lights. Visitors can enjoy a daily winter carnival procession with singers, dancers and stilt-walkers, plus snowmen pelting snowballs at each other. It's a cool, winter wonderland! For more information, click on www.dome2000.co.uk

Poké power

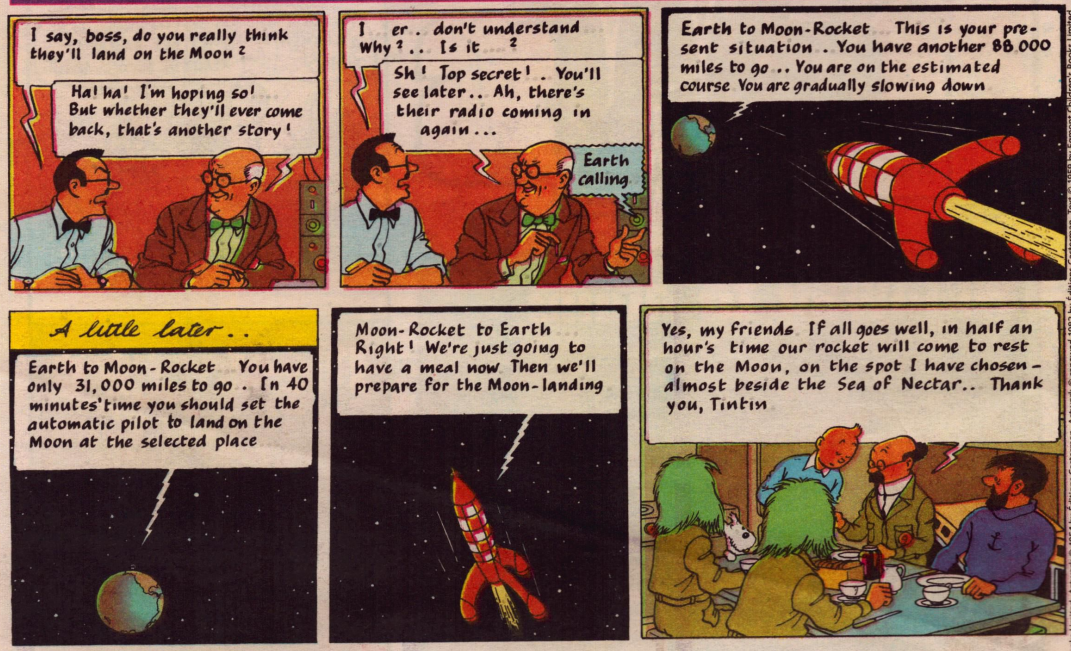


Japan's best-loved export returns to the big screen on Friday when Pokémon 2: The Power of One is released at cinemas nationwide. The second Pokémon movie sees Ash and Pikachu face their biggest challenge yet – saving the world. Six new pocket monsters are introduced, including Lugia, a legendary Pokémon that lives beneath the ocean surface. Originally entitled Pokémon: The Movie 2000, it was released in Japan way back in July 1999 and in America over the summer. Now it's our turn to judge the latest creation – although it won't be quite the same as the Japanese version. Norman Grossfeld is responsible for producing the English script, together with Michael Haigney. He says it took three to four months to translate the movie into English from Japanese, and some of the script had to be completely re-written because of the cultural differences. But Norman is confident that British Pokémon fans will love it just as much. "We think it's going to be great," he said.

Watch out for the new Ancient Mew Pokémon trading card available at cinemas showing the movie!

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN EXPLORERS ON THE MOON

The story so far – Tintin and co have finally reached the moon and are about to land!



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Continued next week!

DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

My sister Jill and I had three goldfish. Jill's one has died and the stomach scales on the others are turning white. What is wrong with them and what can I do to help?

Kate Ennis, 10, via e-mail

The symptoms you describe could be a bacterial, viral or parasitic infection. You'll make things worse if the water quality and hygiene in your aquarium is poor. Cleaning out the aquarium and changing the tank water might help in the short term. However, you really need to seek advice straight away from a vet or reputable pet shop that specialises in fish, as this condition will most likely require some kind of medication, as well as a change in the way you look after your fishy friends.

Advice by vet Catherine Morganti

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST
You can now e-mail your pet problems to
dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year the charity found homes for more than 9,000 animals and treated around 60,000 pets at its hospitals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CEMMICK

Jarvis

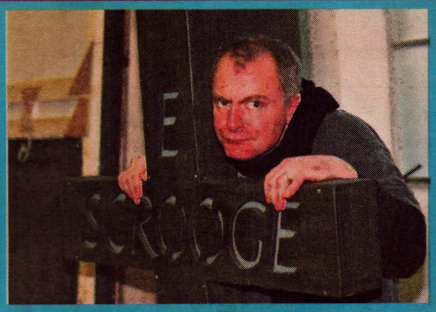
©KNIGHT FEATURES

Look out for more Jarvis and Tony in next week's fantastic Funday!

A CHRISTMAS BALLET

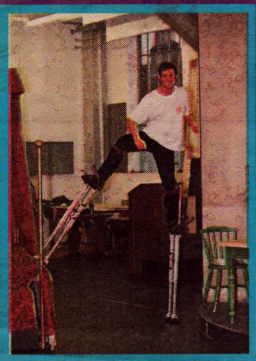
Amy Wilson meets the dance stars of A Christmas Carol

1 Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is being put through his paces as ballet dancers get to work on Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. The production, which has its world premiere at the Royal Festival Hall in London on December 21, has a few new twists and turns thanks to the team of talented artists.



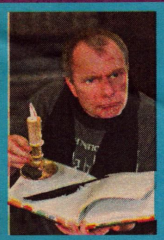
2 The 30 performers, including eight actors, 14 ballet dancers and two acrobats, started rehearsals at the end of November. They've all been busy because there's so much work to do – and they need plenty of breaks to get them through the long days.

3 "It's tiring work," explains Adam Pudney, who is not only a dancer but an acrobat as well. "I ache at the end of every day," he says. "But I have a hot bath and do some more stretching and I'm raring to go again in the morning!"
With such a hectic schedule the dancers burn up thousands of calories every day which need to be replaced. Adam admits he'll eat absolutely anything – and plenty of it as well! "I eat as much as I can to get calories into my system."

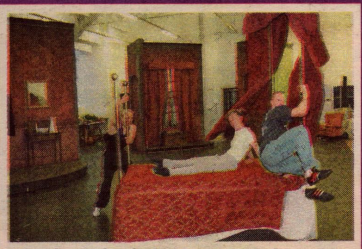


Caroline Palmer is choreologist for the ballet – she writes down every single movement made on stage using a special script called benesh notation.

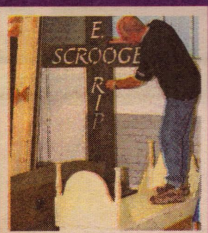
4 Another must for the team is a proper warm up – dancers can injure themselves very easily unless their bodies are prepared for the moves they'll be making. Of course, that means something different for everyone. As well as practising traditional dancing there's falling, flying and stilt-walking to be perfected by the acrobats.



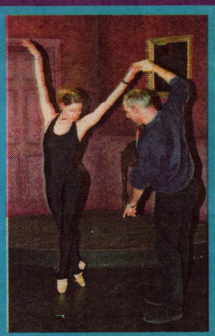
5 Kevin Richmond plays the star, Scrooge. "You have to warm up your body to prepare yourself properly. You do different exercises depending on what you're doing in the production," he reveals. Kevin has been dancing since he was seven years old and has spent the last few years teaching ballet. He was lured back to the stage by the ballet's producers who thought he would be perfect to play Scrooge. "I have done a lot of character work and they decided to bring me back to life! I'm really enjoying it."



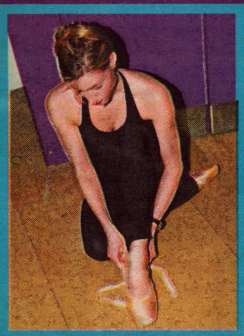
Acrobats do their warm-up using Scrooge's bed as a prop.



Thousands of pounds are spent on props and lots of them are made especially for the show.



6 The feeling of enjoyment is shared by the entire cast. In fact, Tamarin Stott is loving every moment. The 22-year-old does a lot of point-work, using ballet shoes with special supports in the toe and at the back.
"I have never had a problem with point-work but I'm lucky – some people get all sorts of problems with their feet," explains Tamarin.
"It's very important to get the right size and fitting, and there's a lot of preparation involved before you can even start wearing point shoes."



7 A pair of point shoes costs around £24, which might not sound like very much, but as Tamarin is quick to point out they can wear out quickly! "They last one or two days when you're rehearsing, and only an hour or so during a performance – then they're finished," she says. "They become soft and the backs break so you have to chuck them out."

PICTURES JAMIE HUGHES

A Christmas Carol, written by Charles Dickens, runs until January 6. To book tickets call the Royal Festival Hall box-office on 020 7960 4242

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Amaze your family and friends this Christmas by learning these cool tricks from Sav the magician

CARDS CHANGE PLACES

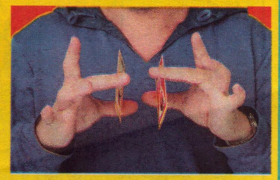
YOU NEED
Two Pokémon cards or playing cards

EFFECT
The cards are held back to back. Then, when you blow on them, they mysteriously end up face to face as you bring your hands apart!

HOW?
As you raise your hands to your mouth, bring them together so that you can grab the other card.

Blow on the cards to distract your audience, while your hands continue the switch and start to move apart.

When the switch is complete, move your hands down and apart to display the cards .. which are now face to face!



MAGNETIC CRACKER!

YOU NEED
A Christmas cracker

EFFECT
Rub a Christmas cracker on your arm to give it a "static" charge. Then, when you open your hand, the cracker sticks!

HOW?
Openly grip the cracker in your left hand. This is what the audience will see, as you apparently stop the "flow of static in your fingers" by gripping your wrist.

Twist your body from left to right, so that the back of your hand is in view. Move your right index finger onto the middle of the cracker as you open your left hand.
Try and get as much distance between the cracker and your right hand as possible, as this will enhance the illusion.

Note, you can also do this trick with chopsticks, pens and rulers!

MONEY FROM NOWHERE

YOU NEED
An empty matchbox, 50p and a 2p piece

EFFECT
Tip an open matchbox into your hand – and out falls a 2p piece. Then, close the box and wave your hand over it.
When you open the box again, there's 50p inside!

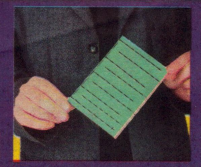
HOW?
Before you start the trick, place the 50p piece between the drawer and lid of the matchbox.

It is held in place when the 2p is tipped out – all you have to do is close the box, do some hocus pocus, and the coin will be in there!

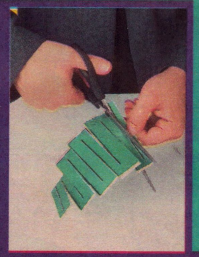
CLIMB THROUGH A CARD

YOU NEED
A Christmas card and a pair of scissors

EFFECT
Prove to your doubting relatives that you can cut a hole in a Christmas card and climb through it!



HOW?
Mark the card as shown, and snip carefully along the lines.



Once you've snipped them all, cut down the centre crease, but make sure you leave the top and bottom strips intact.

Open the zigzag card up and poke your body through!

Sav's Magic Rules

1. Practise
2. Keep your secrets
3. Never repeat a trick
4. Practise a bit more
5. If anyone asks you "How did you do that?," Just say "Very well indeed!"

IMMOVABLE FINGER

YOU NEED
Just your hands for this one

EFFECT
Your friends will believe that you can hypnotise them – and freeze their ring fingers!

HOW?
It works by itself ... don't ask me why!

Just ask your volunteer to place one of their hands on a flat surface, with the knuckle of the middle finger touching the table top.
Wave your hand over their hand, pretending to hypnotise them. Announce that you have turned their ring finger into lead and that it is so heavy that they cannot lift it.

You can even lift it for them – however, as soon as you let go it will snap back down.

Note: unfortunately this trick won't work on your double-jointed friends.

Look out for Sav's cool, weekly tricks – starting on December 31 in The Funday Times

You can also find out more about Sav by visiting www.visual-magic.co.uk

THE FUNDAY TIMES

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS PROVIDED BY WYSMITH. PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES

ILLUSTRATION JON STUART

www.rugratsinparis.com

The web is great for sneaky looks at American movies that won't reach our cinemas for ages. Rugrats In Paris is Chuckie, Tommy and Angelica's second big-screen movie, and the gang go gallic when they visit Euroreptarland in Paris! Fans will love this site, as well as the story outline and trailer for the film, it's got lots of other goodies. Play the games Le Food Frenzy – in which Tommy gets gooey with food, or Mom-o-matic where you can make Chuckie a mum. Magnifique!

kids.msfc.nasa.gov

Blast off with this Nasa site, dedicated to anything and everything you ever wanted to know about space. It's full of great facts and data – for example, it reveals how each of the space shuttles got their names. There are also great pictures and minute-by-minute updates to show the locations of Mir, the International Space Station and other satellites as they orbit Earth. A real rocket of a site for space students and webheads alike.

PICTURE AP/TERRY RENNA

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

TEXT ME ●●●●●

Wan2no abt 100s of txt msgs? If you understand what we've written, then you're already a fully-fledged master of text messaging on your mobile phone or on e-mail. If not, then the pocket-sized Text Me is the book to let you in on the character craze. The book contains sections demonstrating messages for showing your e-motions, from making plans to heated exchanges, and a handy index at the back. At £3.99, this slender book is not exactly a WOA [work of art] nor is it a WOT [waste of time]. It's fun!

BOOK

MR DRILLER Dreamcast ●●●●●

Warning – just one play of this arcade hit could mean hours of frustrating blockbusting madness! Mr Driller is a highly-addictive puzzle game in which hero Susumu must dig to the bottom as quickly as possible without getting squished by the blocks along the way. It sounds silly but, just like Bust-A-Move, you'll soon have sore fingers and be whistling the annoying little tunes. Load it in your Dreamcast and tell mum and dad not to worry if they don't see you for a week!

CONSOLE GAME

THE TOP 10 OF EVERYTHING 2001 Russell Ash ●●●●●

If you love to know things like what the biggest selling single of all-time is, or which sports stadium is the largest in the world, then this is definitely the annual to have in your Christmas stocking. It will keep you occupied for hours and before you know it you'll be a know-it-all! By the way, the answers are Elton John with Candle In The Wind (1997) which sold 37m copies and the 240,000-capacity Strahov Stadium in Prague, Czech Republic!

BOOK

FUNDAY

BUZZ!

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT ... AGAIN?

Buzz meets the stars of Disney's 102 Dalmatians

British actress Alice Evans says that acting alongside the puppies in 102 Dalmatians was a pleasure, but getting to know them involved some unusual tricks. "I love dogs, so I really enjoyed working with them in the film, but during our training period we did have to do some strange things," Alice groans. "One of the weirdest was having piles of sausage meat in our hands and then putting it up to our faces, to encourage the dogs to look at us!"

Although Alice has already appeared in French and Italian films, 102 Dalmatians has made her a hit with her family. "I've got a three-year-old nephew, called Tommy, and he has never shown any interest in my work. But when I called my brother Phil last night, he said that Tommy wanted to speak to me, so I'm privately quite chuffed because I've gained recognition from my nephew!"

The film sees Hollywood star Glenn Close return as the malevolent Cruella De Vil, although she claims to be a reformed character. "At the beginning of the film she's not Cruella, she's Ella. I loved Ella – she's a bit like a robot because her brains are completely fried," Glenn explains.

It's not long though before Cruella rears her ugly head once again, and Glenn gets to run riot! "It's a liberating role because I can be so outrageous, and when I'm playing Cruella I just try and be as scary as possible," Glenn chuckles.

But do any of the film's young fans ever mistake the famous actress for her evil counterpart? "Oh yes, they can do, and then they get scared. So I do have to be careful," she smiles!

102 Dalmatians is out now

A QUESTION OF DANCE

Buzz catches up with superstar DJ Judge Jules, one of the mixmasters behind the awesome new Ministry of Sound The Annual 2000

What has made The Annual series so successful?

It's a combination of great tracks, quality mixing, and of course some really cool packaging!

Why do you think dance music has crossed over into the pop charts?

There is a lot more radio exposure now, and more understanding on the part of record labels that dance music is commercially palatable, and not something separate for a specialist clique

Did you have another career in mind before becoming a DJ?

No, not really, but I do have a degree in law

Do you think qualifications matter?

It would be easy to me say no, because I have a degree and I'm not using it. But really, university afforded me more time and a good few years to gather my thoughts and prepare the ground for my present career. So, although it was not directly beneficial to me as a DJ, it did give me a lot of time to get ready for it

Did you mix The Annual 2000 live from vinyl or was it mixed digitally in the studio?

We always mix live in the studio, our mix then undergoes a digital process so that it fits the length of the CD. The tracks themselves are very long, so you need to reduce them digitally or they won't fit

Ministry of Sound's The Annual 2000 is out now

DREAM COME TRUE

The best news of the week is that S Club 7 are hitting the road next year for a live arena tour. The magnificent seven will perform 13 spectacular live shows in seven major cities – Sheffield, Newcastle, Dublin, London, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham. Tickets are available exclusively on-line at www.btopenworld.com/sclub7

Paul told us: "This is the moment we've been waiting for – we can't wait to get going!"

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES

HOT!

M Movie A Album V Video

HITS 2001 ★★★★

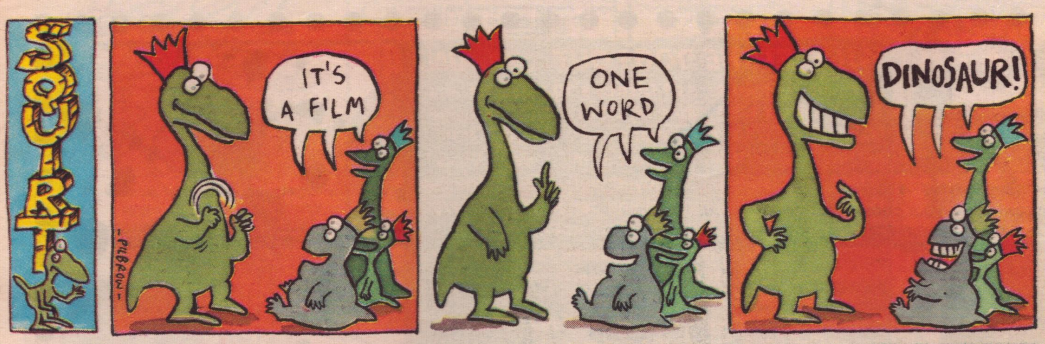
If you're looking for a compilation CD to buy this Christmas, something lively that you can pop on when the charades get boring and granny's fallen asleep, then Hits 2001 could be the answer. The title 2001 is a bit misleading, these tracks are all in fact from 2000, so it's a look back rather than a look forward. But you will find some of the best songs of the year on here – including Groovejet, My Love, She Bangs and Same Old Brand New You – plus, out of 40 tracks we only skipped five. Not bad at all.

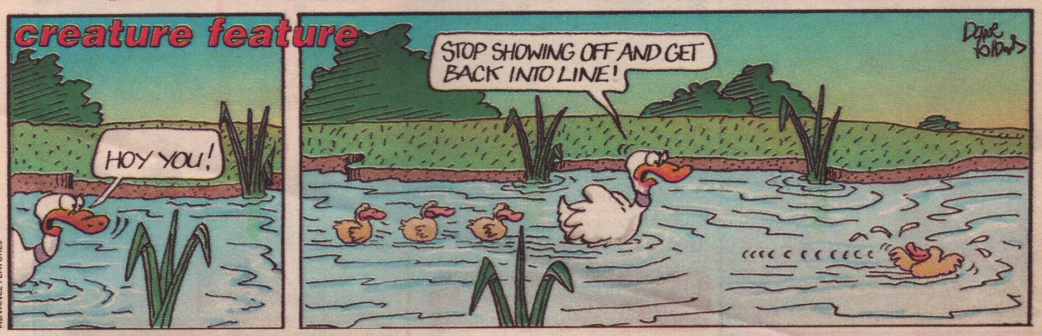
BRITNEY SPEARS LIVE AND MORE! ★★★★★

For fans, this video would be worth buying even if it only contained the videos for Britney's recent singles, but the cool news is there's a lot more on here besides. As well as the full-length promos for Oops!, Lucky and Stronger, you can watch Britney performing all her other hits live on Waikiki Beach in Hawaii. This is also the first chance British Britney fans have to see the pop queen making fun of herself on American comedy show Saturday Night Live. It's a Britney bonanza!

MERLIN THE RETURN ★

Christmas films tend to come in two categories – the crackers and the turkeys. Buzz has discovered this year's turkey – Merlin the Return. The film sees King Arthur, Merlin (Rik Mayall) and friends wake up in modern-day England to face evil Mordred. Sounds good, but the plot is weak – King Arthur's swordfight with a lorry is very bizarre – and the acting even weaker. It might be better to watch Christmas TV instead. (Certificate PG)





ADVANCE FEATURES

NEXT WEEK

PICTURE: EPA PRESSEN BILD/JONAS EKSTROMER

Pop mum Madonna heads up our bumper Christmas quiz that will test your knowledge of the events of 2000

Find out what happens when youngsters put tough questions to an MP at Westminster

Discover why Australian cricket star Glenn McGrath is a hero at home

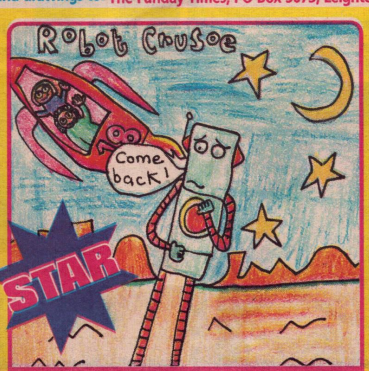
f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

ROBOT WARS

You've seen the bolt-busting series on BBC2 – now you can battle the house robots with Robot Wars on Game Boy Color.

Thanks to BBC Multimedia, the sender of the star f-mail printed this week will receive a Game Boy Color, a copy of the Robot Wars game and a year's subscription to the Robot Wars magazine. The other f-mailers will get a Game Boy Color and a copy of the Robot Wars game.



Alix Kelly, 9, Bletchley

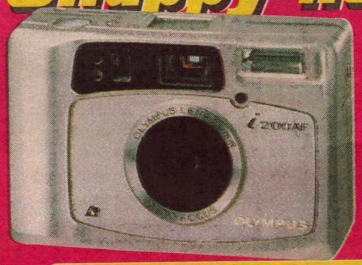
Dear f-mail,
I don't understand why people are going on about the Millennium Dome so much, saying how bad it is. People are entitled to their own opinions but I think it's good. There is lots of stuff to do, like the Play zone and the Body zone. It has also employed lots of local people and has made Greenwich a very popular place. I think it is a little too educational, but the show is very good and you can't see it anywhere else.
Lucy Cunningham, 9, via e-mail
Good point, Lucy. There are still 14 days left for others to make up their own minds.

Why did the scarecrow win a prize?
Because he was out-standing in his field!
Mathew O'Shaughnessy, 12, Leeds

FUN Competitions!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: January 2
You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk

Snappy new year



Catch all the events of 2001 with this cool lightweight Olympus i-series camera. Five lucky Funday readers will win one of the compact i 200 AF cameras, which has a built-in self-timer and a shooting setting that lets you take five shots in just four seconds!

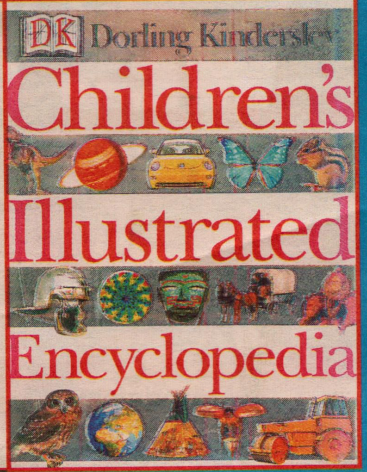
To enter, tell us the name of the three-legged accessory used to keep a camera steady.

Mark your entry CAMERA

OLYMPUS CAMERAS

Well read

This new DK Children's Illustrated Encyclopedia is invaluable when it comes to finding out almost anything ... about nearly everything! And 20 Funday readers will get a copy, thanks to Dorling Kindersley, who make the encyclopedia which has sold an amazing 3m copies.



To enter, tell us what the word encyclopedia means.

Mark your entry ENCYCLOPEDIA

Cuddly encounter

Fans of E.T. have a chance to win their very own version of the cute little alien, thanks to Clinton Cards. We have 20 90cm-high E.T. toys to give away.

To enter, tell us the name of the Charlie's Angel that starred in the E.T. movie.

Mark your entry E.T.

Toy zone

It's Christmas, and www.toyzone.co.uk could be just the place to go hunting for that perfect prezzie.
To mark the festive season, Toyzone is giving five lucky Funday readers a Christmas stocking that includes a Pikachu toy, Chicken Run beanie, mini Bart and Homer figures, Tech Deck and much more.

To enter, tell us the names of three characters from Toy Story 2.

Mark your entry TOYZONE

Game on

Hasbro, the number one toy and games company, is offering four Funday readers a games bonanza that includes Bop It Extreme, the new Cluedo game, Monopoly, Kerplunk, Trivial Pursuit and hand-held electronic Operation.

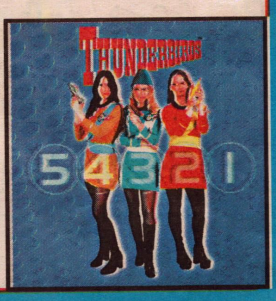
Three runners-up will get Subbuteo Deluxe Edition.

To enter, tell us how many railway stations are on a Monopoly board.

Mark your entry GAMES

Be the Brains

Thunderbirds are getting ready for the launch of their new single, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, which should prove an instant hit with fans.
To celebrate its release, Carlton International Media is offering 10 Funday readers a copy of the single, a Thunderbirds book signed by David Graham (the voice behind Brains and Parker) and a personal voice message by him for your mobile phone or answering machine!



To enter, tell us the name of the Thunderbirds base.

Mark your entry THUNDERBIRDS

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Mark your entry as shown and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above

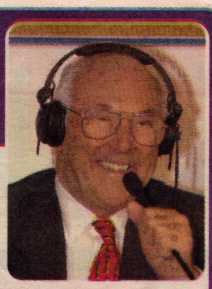
THE FUNDAY TIMES
sport

WES BROWN

Manchester United face Liverpool at Old Trafford today in what may turn out to be one of the most exciting games of the Premiership season. The Red Devils already look set to win their seventh league title in nine years, and it's not even Christmas yet! One player fans have welcomed back this season is skilful young defender Wes Brown. The 21-year-old has been in great form this season, keeping the experienced Norwegians Ronny Johnsen and Henning Berg out of the side.

- While there is an array of foreign stars at Manchester United, Wes is a local lad. He was born in Burnage, Manchester, on October 13, 1979. Before joining the Red Devils as a trainee in July 1996, he played football for Manchester and Greater Manchester as a schoolboy.
- The talented youngster made his United debut against Leeds in May 1998, when he was just 18, before making an impact during the 1999 treble-winning season with 21 appearances.
- Unfortunately for Wes, he missed the whole of last season after suffering a cruciate ligament knee injury.
- Wes's great form this season certainly hasn't gone un-noticed by his manager, Sir Alex Ferguson. "No-one knows how you come back from a long-term injury but the boy has excelled and he's been absolutely first class," he said.
- Wes already has two England caps – his first was against Hungary in April 1999 and the other in the World Cup qualifying game against Finland in October this year.

sport news



PICTURES: ALLSPORT PA

Grand-pa prix

Legendary motor racing commentator Murray Walker has revealed that he will retire at the end of the season. Murray, who is 77 years old, has only ever missed one grand prix when he was injured for a week last season. Murray admits he will be sad to go in a year's time. "I don't really want to go," he said. "But I want to leave before I'm past it."

Amazing win

England's cricketers won the final Test against Pakistan to take the series 1-0. The win came in amazing circumstances, because the game looked like it would finish in a draw for the first four days. On the final day, England played brilliantly to seal a six-wicket win and take the series!

Devils' return

Manchester United, who missed last year's competition to play in the Club World Championship in Brazil, return to the FA Cup with a tough match away to Division One pacesetters Fulham. Meanwhile, non-league Yeovil are hoping to spring a festive surprise on Bolton Wanderers.

Ready, steady, read!

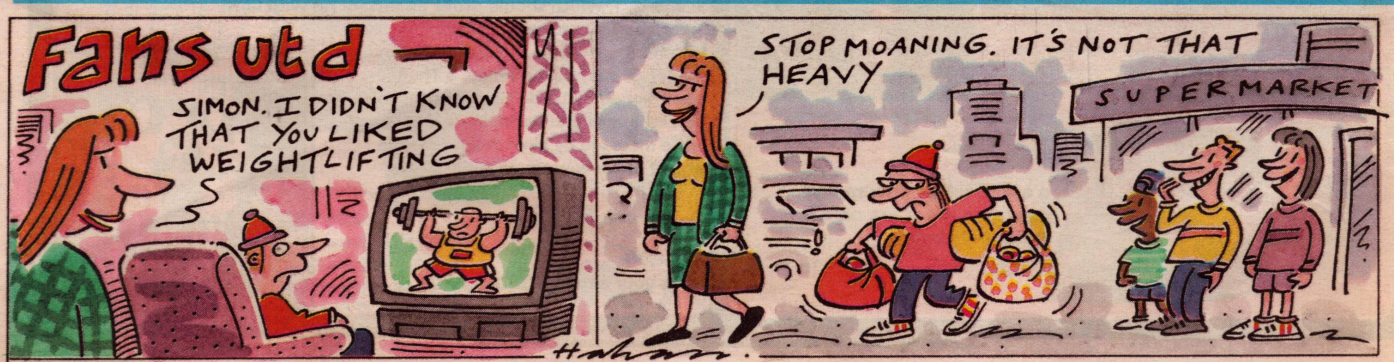
If you're passionate about cricket or football, these books could be just the thing for a bit of holiday reading.

Haydn Middleton's We're On Our Way series follows Castle Albion FC and its star schoolboy players Luke Green and Frederick Dulac as the team plays in the UEFA Cup.

Hurricane Hamish: The Calypso Cricketer and Hurricane Hamish: The Cricket World Cup both follow star cricketer 12-year-old Hamish in his adventures.

Thanks to Scholastic, 30 lucky Funday readers will win a set of three We're On Our Way books and the Hurricane Hamish books.

To enter, tell us who won the 1999 Cricket World Cup.

Mark your entry BOOKS and send it, with your name, age and address, to the address on page 11.

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